Your required readings on the Sisters of Mercy thus far have focused on the past – on Catherine McAuley, on the founding of the religious community that provided aid for the poor, comforted the sick, and established universities like Saint Xavier. But what are the Sisters of Mercy doing today? The best place to answer that question is http://www.sistersofmercy.org/, the Sister of Mercy website.

After going on line, you will notice three blue “learn more” tabs in the middle of the main page – the first is “WE ARE ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE,” the second is “YEAR OF MERCY,” and the third is “BECOME AN ASSOCIATE, COMPANION OR VOLUNTEER.” Your assignment is to select one of these three tabs and follow the directions below to complete the assignment:

1. **If you click “WE ARE ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE,”** you will be open an additional page that examines the role of the Sisters of Mercy in being advocates for justice, and then discusses the 5 critical concerns of the Sisters of Mercy.
   a. After reading the overview, select one of these five concerns (Earth, Immigration, Nonviolence, Anti-Racism and Women)
   b. After reading about your concern, select and read three additional items under “Read Related Stories,” and three additional items under “Resources”
   c. Now write a three-page reflection on how you see the Sisters of Mercy being advocates for the critical concern you have selected – both now and in the past (based on your readings about Catherine and the Sisters of Mercy), and how this concern will impact what you plan to study at SXU and what you hope to do after graduation from SXU.

2. **If you click “YEAR OF MERCY,”** you will read about Pope Francis’ Year of Mercy, and the #MakeMercyReal initiative. After reading about this initiative, the reference to the “corporal and spiritual works of mercy,” and how others are “making Mercy real,” participate in this initiative, posting a description of your action-for-mercy, and a picture of your work to the initiative (and send a copy to your Professor!). Then write a three-page reflection on your action, making it clear how your action to “make Mercy real” stands in continuity with the Sisters of Mercy in the past and now, and how your experience of Mercy will shape your career at SXU and what you intend to do after graduation.

3. **If you click “BECOME AN ASSOCIATE, COMPANION OR VOLUNTEER,”** you will read about some of the ways to become involved with the Sisters of Mercy (including information about how to become a Sister!).
   a. If you are interested in becoming a “Companion in Mercy,” or participating in the “Mercy Volunteer Corps,” then read about these issues, and then set up an appointment with Sister Carol in Campus Ministry (mucha@sxu.edu) to discuss what you can do. Following your meeting, write a two-page reflection on what inspires you about the Sisters of Mercy (both past and present) and what your plans are in respect to being a “Companion in Mercy” or participating in the Mercy Volunteer Corps.
   b. If you would like to become an “Advocate for justice,” then read some of the materials under this tab, especially involving immigration reform, climate change, and human
trafficking, and then write a three-page reflection on the role of the Sisters of Mercy as advocates for justice, both in the past and now, and how “being an advocate for justice” will impact your studies at Saint Xavier and your future plans.